

REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**".

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 3 - 6 and 8-11 have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The tablet according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the probiotic microorganisms are lactobacilli, bifidus bacteris, or streptococci, preferably Lactobacillus casei, Lactobacillus acidophilus, Bifidobacterium bifidum, Bifidobacterium longum, and/or Lactobacillus plantarum.
4. (Amended) The tablet according to claim 1 ~~or 3~~, characterized in that it contains from 10^3 to 10^{12} , preferably from 10^5 to 10^{11} , more preferably from 10^7 to 10^{10} probiotic microorganisms.
5. (Amended) The tablet according to ~~one or more of~~ claims 1 ~~to 4~~, characterized in that the enteric coating essentially consists of shellac or of shellac and polyvinylpyrrolidone.
6. (Amended) The tablet according to ~~one or more of~~ claims 1 ~~to 4~~, characterized in that the coating is comprised of at least two layers, one layer essentially consisting of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, methylcellulose and/or polyvinylpyrrolidone, and/or one layer essentially consisting of shellac or shellac and polyvinylpyrrolidone.
8. (Amended) The tablet according to ~~one or more of~~ claims 5 ~~to 7~~, characterized in that the amount of shellac is from 1 to 10 wt.-%, preferably from 1.5 to 6wt.-%, and more preferably from 2 to 3.5 wt.-%.
9. (Amended) The tablet according to ~~one or more of~~ claims 1 ~~to 8~~, characterized in that it contains further nutritionally relevant additives, preferably vitamins, minerals, trace elements, roughage, enzymes, vegetable extracts, proteins, carbohydrates, and/or fats.

10. (Amended) The tablets according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 9~~, characterized in that it contains additional adjuvants, particularly in its coating(s), preferably plasticizers, more preferably glycerol, Miglyol, mold wax, and/or acetylated monoglycerides.

11. (Amended) A process for producing the tablet according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 10~~, characterized in that the coating is coated from an aqueous solution and/or from an organic solution, preferably from an organic solution, and more preferably from an alcoholic solution.

Claims 12 and 13 are new and therefore no marked up version is necessary.

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